

**WESTMINSTER TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
July 29, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER A regular meeting of the Westminster Traffic Commission was called to order by Chairman Tracy on Tuesday, July 29, 2008, at 5:35 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 8200 Westminster Boulevard, Westminster, California.

SALUTE TO FLAG Vice Chairman Diep led the members of the audience in the Salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL Commissioners Present: Tracy, Diep, Lopez, Hamade (arrived at 5:55pm)

Commissioners Absent: Tran,

STAFF PRESENT Adolfo Ozaeta, Associate Civil Engineer; Lt. Al Panella, Westminster Police Department; Veronica Johnson, Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES The minutes of the Traffic Commission's regular meetings of May 27, 2008, and June 24, 2008 were approved (3-0) with Commissioner Tran and Commissioner Hamade being absent.

ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED The first item to be considered at this evening's meeting was T.C. 80-113A, a request to install parking restrictions on the north side of Bishop Place, east of Weststate Street (rear driveways of Asian Garden Mall – 9200 Bolsa Avenue).

**T.C. 80-113A
9200 Bolsa Avenue** Mr. Ozaeta explained that staff had received a verbal request from Vice Chairman Diep, as well as from several residents, to investigate the sight visibility at the subject location. Residents are concerned that there is not enough vehicle clearance at the subject driveway to safely maneuver a turn onto Bishop Place. Using Exhibit A, Mr. Ozaeta illustrated to the Commission the recommended parking restrictions. An existing fire hydrant between the entrance and exit driveways requires 15 feet of parking restrictions on both sides according to the Vehicle Code.

STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION Staff's recommendation was to approve the installation of parking restrictions on the north side of Bishop Place for a

distance of 38 feet to the west and 11 feet to the east of the existing driveway.

Mr. Ozaeta explained that at an intersection such as Bishop and Weststate, staff would typically perform a 5-second corner site distance, but because the subject location is a driveway, staff's focus was to address vehicle maneuverability and vehicle clearance, keeping vehicles from encroaching on the actual driveway itself. Mr. Ozaeta further explained that there have been two accidents at the subject location since 2005.

Chairman Tracy opened this item up for discussion.

Vice Chairman Diep commented that he had received a call from the property management company, Bridgecreek, stating that they agreed the subject driveway needed some type of traffic control. Mr. Ozaeta clarified for Chairman Tracy that there currently is timed parking on Bishop from Magnolia to Bushard, as well as on Weststate.

Brian, Bridgecreek Realty, spoke on the subject parking restrictions. He reiterated what Vice Chairman Diep stated that they were in complete agreement with the suggested parking restrictions. He commented that there have only been two reported accidents but numerous others have occurred. He suggested extending the parking restrictions at driveway #1 to the adjacent property to address the issue of commercial vehicles parking there that affect visibility to the east.

Motion

Commissioner Lopez moved to approve staff's recommendation to install parking restrictions on the north side of Bishop Place for a distance of 38 feet to the west and 11 feet to the east of the existing driveway; seconded by Vice Chairman Diep.

Vote

The motion carried by a 3-0 vote with Commissioner Tran and Commissioner Hamade being absent.

The second item to be considered at this evening's meeting was T.C. 80-112, request to install parking restrictions on Milton Avenue between Willow Lane and Hefley Street.

T.C. 80-112

Milton btwn Willow & Hefley

Mr. Ozaeta explained to the Commission that staff had received a verbal request from Ms. Charlotte Sanders, 6168 Westbridge Avenue, to investigate safety and vehicle maneuverability on the north side of Milton. Staff has

reviewed locations similar to this one in other areas. The roadway segment is referred to as a bend in the road in engineering terms. It is not a quite an intersection because there are no conflicting movements.

Using Exhibit A, Mr. Ozaeta illustrated for the Commission the area in question. Mr. Ozaeta explained that there is commercial parking on the south side of Milton. There is also an office building nearby that used to have access onto Westminster Boulevard which was eliminated once the freeway improvements were implemented several years ago. Their only entrance and exit is on Milton Avenue.

In regards to the email that was provided to the Commission from Christian Alan Kelley, property owner of 13950 Milton Avenue, the property owner feels they do not have enough on-site parking and is concerned that the subject parking restrictions will affect their business. The property owner was unable to attend the meeting due to the earthquake. Mr. Ozaeta stated that the property owner would be contacted and informed that the parking restrictions are not in front of their property and therefore should have no effect on their business.

Mr. Ozaeta clarified that the concern was regarding the bend in the road and the vehicles traveling west to north. As vehicles encounter parked vehicles on the north side of Milton, where parking is allowed, the traveling vehicle is at times forced to enter the right of way of vehicles traveling south to east. Mr. Ozaeta commented that he had spoken to several employees from the City's Corporation Yard who have encountered the same issue when traveling to and from the City's storage facility on Hefley Street.

Mr. Ozaeta explained that currently there are parking restrictions on the south side of Milton Avenue starting at the beginning of the bend in the road to the Westminster Lutheran Church of Hope. There have been two traffic collisions at this area since 2005.

STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION

Staff's recommendation was to install parking restrictions on the north side of Milton Avenue through the bend in the road, just past 13896, for a distance of 200 feet. Local residents were notified of tonight's meeting.

Lt. Panella commented that while traveling in the area, he had experienced the same issue in which a vehicle had

traveled into his lane because of the parked vehicles on the north side.

Mr. Ozaeta clarified that staff tries not to restrict parking in front of residential homes, but staff feels comfortable with the fact that there is a long segment of parking still available to the east of 13900 Milton Avenue.

Chairman Tracy opened this item up for discussion. No one wished to speak.

MOTION

Motion was made by Commissioner Lopez to approve staff's recommendation to install parking restrictions on the north side of Milton Avenue between Willow Lane and Hefley Street; seconded by Chairman Tracy.

VOTE

The motion carried by a 3-0 vote with Commissioner Tran and Commissioner Hamade being absent.

The third item to be considered at this evening's meeting was T.C. 77-130, 6-month Traffic Review of Northwestern Way at Bolsa Chica Road.

T.C. 77-130

Northwestern at Bolsa Chica

Mr. Ozaeta reminded the Commission that in April 2007, staff had received a request from Mr. Don Salow, 5062 Northwestern Way, to consider the closure of Northwestern Way as a result of the approved 7-11 Market and Gas Station project at 13982 Bolsa Chica Road. The Traffic Commission denied the request and the item was appealed to the City Council, who also denied the request. Staff was directed to perform a before and after traffic study of Northwestern Way to quantify the impact of the 7-11 Market and Gas Station on the adjacent community.

Mr. Ozaeta explained that at the corner of Westminster and Bolsa Chica Road, there is a signalized intersection with a raised median segment that prevents vehicles from making southbound and westbound left turns onto Bolsa Chica. The only maneuvers allowed are northbound and eastbound right turns.

Mr. Ozaeta explained that in April 2007, staff considered the issue of maneuverability for the fire department. Staff determined that the community was not up to the current standards for closure and the Fire Authority was also not supportive of closing the street due to the fact that the only entrance into the community would be off of College Street.

The Police Department had similar concerns regarding their response times.

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that staff is bringing the six-month review to the Commission this month because it has been approximately six months since the 7-11 Market and Gas Station has been fully operational. The Planning Division is preparing their six-month review for the Planning Commission this month as well.

Mr. Ozaeta explained that the street lengths and the number of homes on the streets in the community required two entrances according to the Fire Authority's manual.

Mr. Ozaeta explained that the traffic study conducted in April 2007 showed 284 vehicles on a typical day at the segment of Northwestern, east of Bolsa Chica. A typical day consists of three to four days in a period with the lowest and highest day discarded if there are any irregularities with the count data. The after study conducted in July 2008 shows 294 vehicles, a 3% increase. The segment of Hartford Way, west of College Street showed 480 vehicles in 2007 and 448 in 2008, a decrease of 7%. Traffic data can vary from 5-10%, from day to day or season to season. Staff's conclusion was that the 7-11 Market and Gas Station did not impact the community by adding additional traffic to the neighborhood.

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that there have been some issues in regards to the 7-11 Market and Gas Station with storage on the property that is not per the Planning Commission's conditions of approval, and the time of day that merchandise and gas is delivered. Code Enforcement has been made aware of these issues and is in contact with the owner. The Planning Department will be presenting the issues to the Planning Commission.

Lt. Panella informed the Commission of the crime statistics since the 7-11 Market and Gas Station was built. There has been one robbery in April 2008 at the 7-11 and one misdemeanor crime of vandalism to a vehicle on Northwestern since the 7-11 Market and Gas Station has been opened.

As part of the mitigation measures for the 7-11 project, staff asked that improvements be made to the intersection as part of the requirements. The intersection was restriped and additional signage and street markings were installed. Traveling east on Westminster, there was previously one

right turn pocket which now has a left turn, a through lane, a through right, and an exclusive right. Operationally, this has allowed staff to take some time off of Westminster and place it on Bolsa Chica during the peak hours.

Commissioner Hamade arrived at the dais.

STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION

Staff's recommendation was to receive and file the six – month traffic review of Northwestern Way at Bolsa Chica Road.

Chairman Tracy opened this item up for discussion.

Don Salow, 5062 Northwestern, spoke on the item. Mr. Salow stated he was glad the six-month review was completed. He stated there were other issues that were not traffic related, such as trash. Mr. Salow stated he was perplexed by the counts, noting that they seemed too high. He was concerned about the speed in his community and has noticed delivery vehicles traveling at a high rate of speed. Mr. Salow commented that they are using the outside as a storage area.

Mr. Ozaeta clarified that delivery trucks are allowed on the community's streets because they are not commercial vehicles. The storage issue was resolved for a few days but the issue returned. Code Enforcement will be checking on the issue.

MOTION

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Diep to approve staff's recommendation to receive and file the six-month traffic review of Northwestern Way at Bolsa Chica Road; seconded by Commissioner Lopez.

VOTE

The motion carried by a 3-0 vote with Commissioner Tran being absent and Commissioner Hamade abstaining.

NEW BUSINESS

Alin Hamade was sworn in as Traffic Commissioner.

In regards to the previous item, Commissioner Hamade suggested installing a radar pole at Northwestern Way. Mr. Ozaeta responded that typically those poles are installed where there is heavy pedestrian traffic or a high rate of accidents. Funding associated with the installation requires it to be a school route or tourist attraction. Staff is considering

applying for funding, but the primary focus would be next to school routes, such as at Edwards and Humboldt.

Commissioner Hamade questioned if there was a crosswalk at Northwestern Way. Mr. Ozaeta replied that there was not. Mr. Ozaeta suggested having police officers, which are becoming certified in commercial enforcement, enforce the truck routes. He also informed the Commission that staff is in the process of updating the City's truck routes with new or updated signs.

Lt. Panella clarified that heavy trucks should not be traveling down Northwestern Way. The smaller trucks, such as the delivery trucks that were mentioned by Mr. Salow, are permitted down a residential street. Their speed had to be within the legal limits, 25 miles per hour. Lt. Panella assured Mr. Salow that he would have motor officers enforce the area. Lt. Panella explained that there are two traffic officers that are commercially trained to enforce commercial vehicle violations. Recently a commercial vehicle checkpoint was done on Bolsa Chica and it is working well.

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that the City has obtained the funding for medians on Bolsa Chica Road. Traffic collisions can be prevented or reduced by the installation of landscaped medians. Staff is looking to close the openings that are not signalized. Mr. Ozaeta also informed the Commission that the City of Huntington Beach has raised their speed limit on Bolsa Chica to 50 miles per hour. Staff is redoing the speed survey city-wide which is what the police officers use in court to support the citations they give.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no "Old Business" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

There were no "Information and Reports" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Don Salow, 5062 Northwestern Way, spoke on the raising of speed limits in the City of Huntington Beach.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

There were no "Written Communications" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**ITEMS COMMISSIONERS/
STAFF MAY WISH TO
DISCUSS**

Mr. Ozaeta gave an update on the rezoning of the Little Saigon area.

Lt. Panella gave the Commission a status report of the City after the day's earthquake.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marwan Youssef
Public Works Director/City Engineer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Veronica Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

By: Veronica Johnson
Secretary